

Dear FCC:

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I have no way of knowing if my local station, Fox 45 in Baltimore, is going to air the anti-Kerry smear ads or not, but assume they will since one can certainly get the drift of their political sentiments just from the news they air. They definitely represent a very conservative point of view for our community. I also don't appreciate how they advertise movies to young people in our community, many of which parents might object to.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.

Anna Burns, Baltimore TV market